

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION TO ARIZONA'S CHARTER SCHOOLS

Legislation creating charter schools in Arizona (H.B. 2002) was passed in the summer of 1994 and signed into law on June 16, 1994.

Charter schools are providing another choice in the state's system of public schools by meeting the needs of diverse student populations. Some charter schools cater to the "at-risk" student while others offer an arts-based curriculum, college preparatory, multi-age groupings, Montessori methodology, or innovative school-to-work opportunities.

Although thirty-eight (38) states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico now have charter school legislation, Arizona's is considered to be the strongest in the nation for several reasons.

- Charters may be granted in one of three ways: through local public school districts, by the State Board of Education, or by the State Board for Charter Schools.
- Charter schools may hire non-certified teachers.
- An individual or any type of legal entity, i.e., a partnership, corporation, not-for-profit corporation, or sole proprietorship may be granted a charter.
- The charter contract is for 15 years with reviews every five years.
- Charter schools in Arizona keep assets which are purchased with state funds.

For a current listing of charter schools in Arizona, for an application or for information on workshops, please call (602) 542-5094 and follow the menu. You have the option of receiving lists of schools by email, fax or mail.

Here are the contact names and main phone numbers for charter school personnel at the Arizona Department of Education, the State Board of Education and the State Board for Charter Schools.

Charter Schools Liaison Office	State Board of Education Charter Schools Division	State Board for Charter Schools Office
Lyle Skillen	Bonnie Barclay	Kristen Jordison
Director	Director	Executive Director
<i>Phone</i> (602) 542-6511	<i>Phone</i> (602) 542-5968	<i>Phone</i> (602) 364-3080
<i>Fax</i> (602) 542-3590	<i>Fax</i> (602) 542-3590	<i>Fax</i> (602) 364-3089
<i>e-mail:</i> lskille@ade.az.gov	<i>e-mail:</i> bbarcla@ade.az.gov	<i>e-mail:</i> jordison_kristen@pop.state.az.us